(c) whether it is a fact that India would have the world's biggest radio telescope facility when the GMRT becomes operational; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) by when it is likely to become operational and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope is being set up at Khodad near Narayangaon, about 80 Kms. north of Pune, by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research which is a fully aided institution under the aegies of the Department of Atomic Energy.

(b) GMRT has several outstanding scientific objectives in the field of Astronomy and Astrophysics. For example, search for massive cold hydrogen clouds which are believed to exist in the Universe prior to the formation of galaxies according to the Big Bang Theory. Further, the instrument will be quite versatile for investigating radio emssions from Sun, Jupiter and Saturn in our solar system to the most distant objects in the Universe.

(c) Yes, Sir.

GMRT will be the world's largest radio telescope operating in the frequency range of 30-1500 MHz when completed by 1994. India offers several special advantages for such studies. For example, the man-made radio noise due to radio transmitters is about a million times lower in India compared to the noise level in most western countries. The radio telescopes in the western countries operate in the frequency range of 1000-30,000 MHz. as the lower frequency spectrum cannot be used due to high man-made radio frequency interference in industrialised countries. Also since it does not show in the plains of India, very light and rather coarse stainless steel wires can be used for the reflecting surfaces of the GMRT dishes.

(d) The first of the thirty parabolic dishes of 45M diameter each of the GMRT will be commissioned by the end of July, 1992 and the first observations are planned by mid August, 1992. All the 30 antennas will be completed by 1994.

The Project is estimated to cost Rs. 43.20 crores, which is much lower than the cost of comparable facilities in the West because of the low cost design developed by Indian scientists. The telescope is being built indigenously with foreign exchange component of only about 17 per cent although it is a state of the art radio telescope.

जीवन रक्षक दवाओं की कमी

@2255. **चौधरी हरि सिंह : क्या प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आजकल बाजार में विशेषकर दिल्ली में जीवन रक्षक एलोपैथिक दवाओं की भारी कमी है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण है इन दवाओं की कमी को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या उपाय किए जा रहे है ?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चिता मोहन) : (क) और (ख) कुछ ब्रान्डों के सूत्रयोगों की कमी जानकारी में आई है । ये कमियां मुख्यत: स्थानीय प्रकृति की है और अधिकांश मामलों में अन्य ब्रान्डों की वही दवाई उपलब्ध थी । रिपोर्ट की गई कमी के कई मामलों में चिकित्सीय समतुल्य औषधियां उपलब्ध थीं ।

दवाइयों की आपूर्ति में कुछ अव्यवस्था और अनिश्चितता का एक कारण एकिजम नीति में परिवर्तन होना है, जिसके अधीन औषध क्षेत्र में आयात बाजार निर्धारित विनिमय दर पर किये जाने अपेक्षित थे । संबंधित अनिश्चितता अनेक प्रयुज औषधों

@पूर्वत: अतारांकित प्रश्न 1313, 22 जु 1992 में स्थानांतरित ।

और मध्यवर्तियों पर शुल्कों में हाल में कमी करके और कुछ औषधों/सूत्र योगों का सरकारी विनियमय दर पर आयात करने की अनुमती देने के निर्णय के बाद काफी हद तक दूर करदी गई है।

Shortage of Vitamin 'C'

@@2256. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of Vitamin C in the country;

(b) whether the position is likely to aggravate in the wage of Government's decision to hike the prices of Vitamin C and its salts; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure adequate availability of Vitamin C?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (c) There was some shortage of Vitamin 'C' in the recent post due to shortfall in production of one of the two manufacturers. There were problems in regard to pricing which have since been tackled and the situation should normalise soon.

(b) No, Sir.

Tie-ups signed by Haldia Petrochemicals

@@@2257. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Haldia Petro-Chemicals has signed three forcign tie-ups during the last two months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how far the same are likely to reduce dependence on imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No agreement has been signed as yet.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Reference of IDPL Management views for legal advise

2258. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question 3747 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th March, 1992 and state:

(a) whether unauthorised absence from duty is actionable also, under rule 25 *ibid* read with rule 5(7) thereof;

(b) the reasons for not taking action under rule 25 read with rule 5(7) after four days instead of waitng for over a month; and

(c) whether the employees concerned have suspended after four days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Rule 5 of IDPL Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules, 1978 lists the type of misconduct for which an employee would be liable to disciplinary action. The list is illustrative and not conclusive. Unauthorised absence is one of such misconduct which will make an employee liable to disciplinary action. As reported by IDPL, disciplinary action, is taken after following the requisite procedure and not necessarily immediately after expiry of four days of absence. Suspension of an employee immediately after expiry of four days of unauthorised absence is not considered necessary.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1329, Transferred from 22nd July, 1992.

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 1382, Transferred from the 22nd July, 1992.